

a stage higher in the official hierarchy, to a post in the office of Surveyor of Taxes. In this capacity, he 'assessed'

Robert Browning, who protested, successfully proving that his earnings from poetry did not bung him within the income-tax paying category. It was at this stage in his career that G. B. S. heard him, at the Zetetical Society, and found him already possessed both of a mine of exact knowledge and of an unrivalled capacity for setting it forth in words of precision. In the following year, he again essayed the Open Competition, this time under the Playfair Scheme for promotion from grade to grade. As a result, another barrier was down, he passed up into the First Division, the present Administrative guide,—

passed so high that he could have entered the Foreign Office. In the Colonial Office,—which he actually chose, on advice—he had among his colleagues Sidney Olivier, who had entered the service by the normal route, from the University. There he worked, for the next ten years, until he left the Civil Service, to take up public work on a larger, freer stage.

About the course of his own mental development, in these formative years, he has made no revelation to the world, beyond a generous acknowledgment of his debt to John Stuart Mill. About himself, in any connexion, he has, at any time, talked less than any other public man of equal or approaching eminence. The indications of his written work, as of his speech, whether

public 01 private,
go to suggest that he would prefer to remain
always
anonymous At any and every stage in his
career, he
is to be found, again and again, writing papers
and doing
heavy work for which he neither gets nor
deserves to get,
the credit Nothing, in this, either of timidity
or shyness.
No one could be less timid, and he is far too
unselfconscious
to be shy Indeed, this alliance, in his make-up,
of powerful
and comprehensive mental ability with
genuine disin-